A Manu-al for the Asso-ciates of the Order of St. Anne

O Lord, Who didst vouchsafe to Blessed Anne such grace that she was worthy to bear in her womb Mary Thy Mother, grant us through the intercession of the Mother and her Daughter the abundance of Thy grace, that, aided by the prayers of those whose memory we lovingly cherish, we may be worthy to attain to the Heavenly Jerusalem, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A MANUAL

for the

Associates of the Order of

St. Anne

1981

Of the Order

The Order of St. Anne is composed of women living the dedicated life in accordance with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Sisters pledge themselves to the service of God under the threefold vow of poverty, chastity, and obedience. We are under the patronage of Blessed Anne, parent of our Lord's most dear Mother, keeping July 26th as our patronal festival and as our dedication festival, the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, October 2nd.

When God sent forth His Son into the world, to be born of a woman, the woman who was chosen for the unique honor, pre-eminent in every feature of the saintly character, was the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was taught and trained by her mother, St. Anne. The Sisters of St. Anne hope, by the help of God, to teach and train others for Jesus.

The first work of any religious community is, and always will be, its unseen

work, the hidden life of prayer; and its first service to the world is to stand, under the lordship of Christ, against the powers of evil. Many people today seem to be more conscious than ever before of injustice and inequality in the world and to be struggling to rediscover those values which we try to live out in our convents.

Of the Associates

Those men and women wishing to be united with the Sisters in the common desire to "spend and be spent" in the service of Jesus Christ and His Church may be received as Associates of the Order of St. Anne. Any such friends, on admittance become Associates of the whole Order of St. Anne and not merely of any one particular convent of the Order. Although they do not live in the Community, they help us immeasurably by prayer, friendship, volunteer service, spiritual and material support and especially, by their dedicated lives in the world.

We share our life with them by remembering them in our prayers daily, by offering hospitality, by providing opportunities for rest and spiritual renewal. In time of trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, our Associates may ask for the special intercessions of the Community. Associates who have departed this life will be remembered and prayed for at a Requiem Eucharist in the Convent Chapel at the time of their death, and again on All Souls Day yearly.

All are warmly welcomed to visit at one or another of the Houses of the Order, and when possible, and as the individual feels the need for them, days of retreat, quiet, and renewal should be sought.

An Associate who so wishes may withdraw by notifying the Reverend Mother of the Convent to which he or she customarily reports. The medal is then returned to the Mother. Any Associate with whom the Sisters have been unable to make contact for three years will be

presumed to have withdrawn and that person's name may be removed from the list of Associates.

Associates are an integral part of the Community and have a real share in its spiritual life. Thus, we find ourselves bound firmly together in love, commitment, and faith in a common quest.

The Rule of Life

Associates will take for their basic rule the Golden Rule of our Savior, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." All should seek that sanctification to which God in His mercy calls us and to show forth the light of Christ in their lives; thus carrying out, to the best of their ability, the baptismal promises.

A simple rule of life shall include a definite and regular attendance at the Holy Eucharist. A portion of each day should be set aside for Bible reading, prayers and intercessions, remembering to say at least the Our Father for the Sisters and their work.

Each Associate shall endeavor to make some definite commitment to some work in the parish to which he or she is attached, and to pledge regularly to this parish.

Some form of abstinence and fasting, as best suited to the individual in accordance with Our Lord's teaching, should be undertaken.

We ought to consider self-examination, confession and reconciliation as privileges granted to us within our Church and be aware of the availability of these.

The Associates shall write to the Reverend Mother or the Sister-in-Charge of a convent at least once a year, if they are not able to visit personally. If they have made a change in residence since their reception, they may, if they so wish, write to the Convent of St. Anne nearest their new home.

Every commitment, even the most insignificant-seeming, makes demands on us; it creates solidarities, gives responsibilities, demands from us a crea-

tive fidelity by which each day we renew our combat. A lived-out commitment transforms us profoundly.

The Medal

The medal for the Associates bears on one side the figure of the Holy Child. His arms are outstretched, in welcome no less than in self-surrender, and behind Him is the Tree of Life. On either side of the tree are the words, "PRO EIS"—"For their sakes." That was our Savior's motto. In those words He gathered up all His experience from Bethlehem to Calvary. "For their sakes I sanctify myself." On the reverse of the medal is the monogram of the Order of St. Anne, "S.A.," with the words "SANCTA ANNA, ORA PRO NOBIS,"—"St. Anne, pray for us."

Of Guests in the Convent

"Let all the guests that come be received like Christ Himself," is the principle laid down by St. Benedict in his Holy

Rule, for Christ will say, "I was a stranger, and ye took Me in."

The relation between hosts and guests is mutual. Guests come in the Name of Christ; they are welcomed in the Name of Christ. They come from many parts of the country, and from many motives; they are of all ages and stations; but they come and are welcomed in the Name of Christ.

Those who come, be they rich or poor, old or young, are guests and friends, never lodgers. The Guest rooms are maintained by friends for their friends, that all may be received and be made to feel at home and happy with the joy that is shared by all who are in Christ. So, we open our hearts and our doors to welcome any who come to pray or to rest or to seek counsel and friendship. We hope you will find the love of Christ in our convents. The numbers of those people who are able to visit us may be limited, but there is no limit to the power of that love and hospitality taught us by Christ. God grant that the Sisters of St. Anne

may always do their share in this for our friends and Associates.

Office for the Admission of an Associate

(The candidate kneeling before the altar, all others standing, the Priest shall say:)

In the Name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Our Father.

Hail Mary.

V. Lord, hear our prayer,
R. And let our cry come unto Thee.
V. The Lord be with you,
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

(Then shall the Priest ask the candidate the following questions; should there be more than one candidate, they shall answer together:)

Priest. Do you desire to become an Associate of the Order of St. Anne?

Candidate: I do.

Priest. Will you at least say the Our Father every day for the Sisters of St. Anne?

Candidate: I will, by God's help.

Priest. Will you endeavour to strengthen and support the Sisters by your alms and assist them in good works so far as you are able?

Candidate: I will endeavour so to do.

Priest: I admit you, *N.*, to be an Associate of the Order of St. Anne. In the Name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

(Then the Priest, turning to the altar, shall bless the medal.)

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.
V. The Lord be with you,
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Bless, ✠ O Lord, we beseech Thee, and sanctify ✠ this medal, which Thy servant shall wear in token of his (or her) fellowship with the Sisters of St. Anne; and make him (or her), by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, to grow in grace and to be faithful in good works, to the glory of Thy Name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Then shall the Priest deliver the medal, saying:)

Receive this medal as an Associate of the Order of St. Anne; and let it remind you of the purity of heart and lowliness of mind with which you must seek to abide in the love of God.

(Then shall be said or sung Psalm CXXXI:)

Ant. Trust in the Lord.

1. Lord, I am not high-minded: I have no proud looks.

2. I do not exercise myself in great matters: which are too high for me.

3. But I refrain my soul, and keep it low, like as a child that is weaned from his mother: yea, my soul is even as a weaned child.

4. O Israel, trust in the Lord: from this time forth for evermore.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Ant. Trust in the Lord: from this time forth for evermore.

(All kneeling:)

V. The Lord be with you,

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, vouchsafe to bless Thy servant whom we have now received as an Associate of this Order. Grant that he (or she) and the Sisters may be admitted to that everlasting

kingdom, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit Thou livest and reignest ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of Thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by Thy most gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

✠

The Counsels

The following counsels may serve as a basis for prayer and self-examination.

1. Aim constantly to cultivate that spirit of divine charity which is the very bond of peace and of all virtues. Make yourself familiar with the application of that spirit as set forth by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.

2. Learn to bear patiently with the faults and imperfections of others.

3. Never believe anything bad about anybody unless you positively know it to be true, and never tell even that unless you feel it to be absolutely necessary.

4. If at any time, your feelings should be wounded, be careful not to harbor resentment or bitterness toward the one who may have pained you.

In one word, take this counsel from St. Paul: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Hymns

I. Ave Mater Anna

Anne, thou mother fairest,
Stem that honey barest;
Matron saint, excelling
All in wedlock dwelling.

Hail! whose daughter lowly
Bare the Child most holy,
Who the Heaven o'erswayeth,
Whom the earth obeyeth.

We, thy worth confessing,
Thee most gladly blessing,
Pray that Jesu's power
Us with bliss may dower.

Be it His good pleasure
Who can give past measure,
That we find eternal
Joy in realms supernal.

Thou, who Mary barest,
Her petition sharest:
Christ that pleading prizeth
Which from both ariseth.

Three in One, we bless Thee;
One in Three, confess Thee;
Laud to Father raising,
Son and Spirit praising. *Amen.*

II. Fecunda Radix Isai

The fruitful stem of Jesse blooms:
  Behold the modest blossom rare!
Anne to the world a Virgin gives,
  Who God's eternal Son shall bear.

Long wrapped in darkness, man may now
  Uplift his eyes and see the day,
And in the arms of Anne perceive
  The promised morning's earliest ray.

Such fervent prayers her spirit breathed,
  Such holy yearnings filled her breast,
She merited to bear the Maid
  That bare salvation's Author blest.

To God eternal, Three in One,
  High praise for blessed Anne we yield:
May He, when earthly days are run,
  In death's dread hour His children shield.
Amen.

Memorials

Of Our Lady and St. Anne

Ant. As is the mother, so is her daughter.
[*Alleluia.*]

V. As one whom his mother comfort-
eth, [*Alleluia.*]
R. So will I comfort you. [*Alleluia.*]

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that, aided by the example and prayers of Blessed Anne, parent of Thy most dear Mother, we may attain to the everlasting blessedness where she reigns as Queen, through whose blessed Child-bearing Thou didst vouchsafe to assume human flesh for the salvation of the world; Who livest and reignest, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For the Associates

Ant. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul: therefore will I hope in Him. [*Alleluia.*]

V. Well done, good and faithful servant. [*Alleluia.*]

R. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. [*Alleluia.*]

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, give, we beseech Thee, to the Associates of this Order continual perseverance in Thy holy service, that they may at last be accounted worthy to serve before Thee in everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Visitors to the House

Ant. They come gathered together from the east and from the west, at the word of the Holy One: rejoicing in the glory of God. [*Alleluia.*]

V. Beloved, if God so loved us. [*Alleluia.*]

R. We ought also to love one another. [*Alleluia.*]

Let us pray.

O Lord, Who, though Thou wast rich, yet for our sakes didst become poor, and hast promised in Thy Gospel that whatsoever is done unto the least of Thy brethren Thou wilt receive as done unto Thee: give us grace, we humbly beseech Thee, to be ever willing and ready to minister to the needs of others; to Thy praise and glory, Who art God over all, blessed for ever. *Amen.*

For Our Benefactors

Ant. Not of constraint, but willingly: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
[*Alleluia.*]

V. Come, ye blessed of My Father.
[*Alleluia.*]

R. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you. [*Alleluia.*]

Let us pray.

O God, Who dost pour the gift of charity into the hearts of the faithful, grant unto Thy servants the benefactors of this Order, health of soul and body, that they may perform with all love the things that be pleasing unto Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Houses of the Order of Saint Anne

The Convent of St. Anne
18 Claremont Avenue
Arlington Heights, Massachusetts 02174
(617) 646-9773

The Convent of St. Anne
15 Craigie Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
(617) 864-3432

The Convent of St. Anne
1125 N. LaSalle Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 642-3638

The Convent of St. Anne
2701 S. York Street
Denver, Colorado 80210
(303) 756-3635

The Convent of St. Anne
Bethany
Rt. 2
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
(617) 259-9800

A Form of Bequest

"I give and bequeath to the ORDER OF SAINT ANNE, a Religious Community for women of the Episcopal Church, specifically to the Convent of St. Anne at .....(City)....., ...(State)....., the sum of ..... Dollars ($.....)."

O God, Who renewest in these latter days Thy mercies of ancient times; speed onward the restoration of Community Life, that those who have answered Thy Call may be true to their calling and that many more forsaking all for Jesus' sake, may offer themselves in entire self-surrender for Thy service, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Agnus
noster
vicit,

eum
sequa-
mur